REMARKS

The issues outstanding in the Office Action mailed June 16, 2005, are the rejections under 35 U.S.C §§102 and 103. Reconsideration of these issues, in view of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 1 - 8, 10 - 19 and 22 - 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) over Meyer et al. '225. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It is argued, at page 2 of the Office Action, that Meyer teaches polymerizable liquid crystalline compounds of formula I, where in Meyers M is phenyl-COO-phenyl, citing column 5, line 55. In fact, a careful reading of the disclosure of Meyer shows that this mesogenic group M is adjacent to a spacer group Y^3 and Y^4. Spacer groups Y are selected from eleven different choices, and one *must* be a carbonate group (-O-C-O-O-) or -O-C-O-NR-, -NR-CO-O- or -NR-CO-NR-. See, for example, column 1, lines 16 - 22. Such spacers, bonded to carbonate groups, are exemplified at columns 11 - 14, in the various structures therein. See also the definition of Y^5 at column 9. Since the broad disclosure of Meyers is insufficient to constitute an anticipation, see, for example, *In re Petering*, 1301 F.2d 676, 133 U.S.P.Q. 275 (CCPA 1962), and the definition of the spacer moreover requires a carbonate group, it is submitted that the reference cannot anticipate the present claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 1 - 19 and 22 - 23 have further been rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) over Coates '770 (Coates I). Reconsideration of this rejection is also respectfully requested. In its discussion of Coates I, the Office Action fails to discuss the feature of the present claims wherein the polymerizable liquid crystal material does not contain a solvent, thinner, dispersion agent, polymeric binder or monomer compound that can be converted into polymeric binder by polymerization. In fact, Coates

teaches, as conventional in the art, quite the opposite, indicating that the polymerizable mesogenic material is "printed in the shape of small droplets" on a substrate, see column 16, lines 1 - 3. It is apparent that the droplets contain solvent, inasmuch as "cured droplets" are subsequently discussed at line 15 of column 16. All of the coating methods disclosed at column 16, lines 1 - 52, clearly involve solvents, thinners, etc. For example, note the discussion of immiscible liquids, surfactants, and solutions, at column 16, lines 33, 36 and 41. Consequently, Coates I clearly teaches the use of diluents, solvents, etc. and in no way anticipates methods of preparing polymer films wherein a polymerizable liquid crystalline material does not contain solvent, thinner, dispersion agent, polymeric binder or monomer compound converted to polymeric binder by polymerization. Moreover, the reference does not anticipate such solvent etc. free liquid crystalline materials per se. Withdrawal of this rejection is also therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 19 and 22 - 23 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) over Coates et al. (UK '061), "Coates II". Reconsideration of this rejection is also respectfully requested.

Coates II, similarly to Coates I, teaches the use of solvents, diluents, etc. for the polymerizable liquid crystalline material, note page 17, line 34 - page 18, line 3. Note also a discussion of surfactants at page 18, line 31 - page 19, line 3. Accordingly, Coates II clearly does not teach a method of preparing a polymer film employing a polymerizable liquid crystalline material which does not contain a solvent, thinner, etc., nor such liquid crystalline materials per se. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore also respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §103

Claims 1 - 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C §103 over Meyer. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

There is no suggestion in Meyer to deviate from the required teaching of the

reference and prepare materials which do not contain a carbonate group. See the above discussion in connection with the rejection under 35 U.S.C §102. Accordingly, the patent fails to suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art the presently claimed methods, nor to provide motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosed compounds of the reference in order to produce those used in the presently claimed methods. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C §103 should be withdrawn.

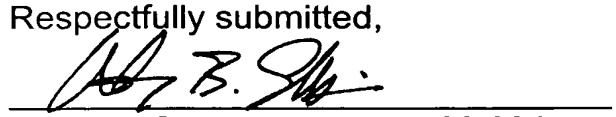
Claims 20 - 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C §103 over Coates I or Coates II. As noted at page 6 of the Office Action, the references both fail to specifically exemplify the compounds of these claims. While it is argued at page 6 of the Office Action that the compounds fall within the generic disclosure of the reference, it is quite evident that this, without more, is completely insufficient to provide one of ordinary skill in the art with motivation to produce the specifically claimed compounds. See, for example, *In re Jones*, 21 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1941 (Fed. Cir 1992) which was emphatic on this point. There is no analysis in the Office Action as to why one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to select the particularly claimed materials from the disclosure of Coates I or Coates II. Accordingly, it is submitted that a rejection for obviousness fails.

Moreover, the presently claimed materials are advantageous over, for example, those of Coates I and Coates II, in that they are suitable for printing processes without the aid of diluent, thinner or solvent, as discussed above. Since patentees do not teach that the absence of diluent or solvent can be achieved with compounds, for example, of the scope of claims 20 and 21, it can be seen that the reference fails to suggest these materials. This provides even further basis supporting the withdrawal of the rejection, and the same is respectfully requested.

The claims of the application are submitted to be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner has any questions or comments, she is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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